

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2009.

Mrs. KARI BAUER,
Moss Court,
Fayetteville, NC.

DEAR MRS. BAUER: I wish to once again convey my deepest condolences for the loss of your husband, Staff Sergeant Justin Bauer. My entire congressional staff also joins me at this time in sending our deepest sympathies and understanding during this period of bereavement.

Staff Sergeant Bauer served his country and the American people in the most honorable of ways. Staff Sergeant Bauer's absolute selfless service, professionalism and loyalty to country will continue to serve as the pinnacle for which we will continue to honor his service to our great nation. His leadership and "high regard" as viewed by his fellow Soldiers were so strongly conveyed to me in the words spoken at the memorial service.

I hope that time and memories will help lessen the burden of your sorrow, and that you may draw some measure of comfort knowing that others care and share in your loss. Please know that we have shared in your pain and sorrow and pay our final respects to undoubtedly one of our nation's best. If I can be of any assistance please contact my Washington, D.C. Office at (202) 225-3715 or in Fayetteville (910)-920-2070.

I also wanted you to know that I went on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives today to offer my appreciation for the sacrifice that your husband made, the loss you endured. And that the two of you represent why our military and our military families are the heart and soul of our country. Thanks again to you and Justin.

Sincerely,

LARRY KISSELL,
Member of Congress.

□ 1700

WE NEED TO FOCUS ON OUR TRADE DEFICITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, last night, President Obama said that in this time of economic insecurity, America must avoid the possibility of protectionism. My friends, where are the fearsome red-herring protectionists?

We all believe in free trade so long as it is fair trade, and I believe most of all in free trade among free people. Our Nation boasts the most open markets in the world, but one must recognize that America hasn't had a balanced trade account since 1975, yes, 1975.

That's 34 years of regression on the jobs and trade front, 34 years of wandering in the wilderness, 34 years of deluges of imports dwarfing our exports, 34 years of outsourcing our good jobs by the millions. Thousands of America's best companies have been sacrificed, Maytag, Trico, Playtex, Levis, Zenith, Georgia-Pacific, Champion Spark Plug. The list is endless.

Now we are watching major segments of our banking system disintegrate while we buy foreign televisions, foreign clothing, foreign automobiles, foreign food, all while our beautiful Na-

tion begs China, undemocratic China, for money.

It's pretty clear we need to focus on our trade deficits as a causal factor in our other deficits. The human and economic tragedies continue to mount. The massive hemorrhage of U.S. wealth instructs us in its raw truth. So-called free trade agreements began in 1975. Back then we had a surplus of \$12.4 billion in goods with the world. We have now sunk in 2008 to \$677 billion in trade deficit, three-quarters of a trillion dollars, and all the lost jobs that go with it just disappear.

The evidence is all around us. Americans are working harder each year, increasing their productivity but then seeing no increased wages. More lost purchasing power, the dollar isn't worth as much. Their health and pension benefits, disappearing. This is not a recipe for a healthy economy, a strong nation or a middle class.

The challenge is trade is not a zero sum game. Other nations don't play by the same rules. Other nations manage their markets. Other nations manipulate their currency. Other nations aren't democratic and they have no rule of law.

Let's look at the raw facts, as ignoring our trade deficits won't help our Nation crawl out of our deep economic hole. Let's stop digging and start crawling out.

When you focus over a quarter of a century on more outsourcing of jobs and importing goods than on exporting goods and creating jobs here, our country ends up indebted and we are indebted to China, indebted to Mexico, indebted to Japan and all the other creditors who will be knocking on our grandchildren's doors.

When you conduct two wars and don't pay for them, you make it even worse. But not to recognize those two deficits, the trade deficit as well as the budget deficit, is to live in a world of delusion.

In 2008, our largest trade deficit was in oil with countries in the Middle East, and the bottom line is that that trade advantages them, not us.

If you look at overall trade between the United States, Canada and Mexico, that's governed by NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement. We are now at record imports from both countries, not exports, record imports, \$74.2 billion in the red with Canada last year and \$63.5 billion in the red with Mexico.

The same is true with Communist China, where we are in a \$266 billion deficit, a record high. Japan is no different, \$72.6 billion there.

The top trade gap we continue to face is imported oil. Overall, the U.S. imported 3.6 billion barrels of crude oil in 2008 worth \$342 billion, our chief strategic vulnerability.

Unemployment continues to rise nationally, over 7.2 percent, and in districts like mine and many counties over 12.5 percent. Dr. Peter Morici of the University of Maryland has writ-

ten, "Lost growth is cumulative. Thanks to the record trade deficits accumulated over the last 10 years, the U.S. economy is about \$1.5 trillion smaller. This comes out to about \$10,000 per worker," and every American middle class family feels it.

How are we going to change this, Mr. President? America needs balanced trade accounts, not delusion. We need open markets, not closed markets. We need a rule of law, not undemocratic practices. We need realism, not delusion.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT MARC J. SMALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a young American hero who has given his all in service to our Nation, a 1970 graduate of Methacton High School, Marc Small of Collegeville, Pennsylvania. He represented the very best of our community and country when he decided in 2003 to follow in the patriotic footsteps of his father, Sergeant Major Murray Small, U.S. Army, Retired, and he enlisted in our U.S. Army.

As importantly, in following his mother's compassionate and caring nature, he chose to become a medic with the Army Special Forces to assume the responsibilities of caring for his comrades in arms as well as some of the poorest people on this earth. As testament to his intelligence, motivation and courage, in less than 5 years this remarkable young man quickly rose to the rank of staff sergeant, learned the invaluable skills necessary to heal soldiers and civilians and earned the extraordinary honor of wearing the treasured "Green Beret."

Tragically, on February 12, 2009, at Faramuz, Afghanistan, Staff Sergeant Marc J. Small, of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) U.S. Army, succumbed to wounds sustained in combat. Before his life was cut short, this young warrior had treated hundreds of Afghani civilians and in the process displayed the very best of the American spirit and character.

By the loss of Staff Sergeant Marc J. Small we are a much lesser Nation and community, but only for the briefest of periods. Because given the very special nature of this healer and warrior, I am certain that from this tragedy other young men and women will be inspired by the heroism and selflessness of Staff Sergeant Small. From their skills, valor and compassion, the best traditions of our Nation will live on, as they must, for this world remains a very challenging place, and the need for our Nation to tend to the needs of poor and oppressed in many remote regions of the world is great.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we take a moment to reflect on the service Staff Sergeant Marc Small has made on our